



Australian Bureau of Statistics

6291.0.55.003 - Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, Feb 2019

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Summary

Main Features

Data from the monthly Labour Force Survey are released in two stages. The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) are part of the second release, and include detailed data not contained in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) product set, which is released one week earlier.

The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) is released monthly. Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) includes data only collected in February, May, August and November (including industry and occupation).

Since these products are based on the same data as the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) publication, the 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia Explanatory Notes are relevant to both releases.

Insights from the Original Data

INSIGHTS FROM THE ORIGINAL DATA

SAMPLE COMPOSITION

The Labour Force Survey sample can be thought of as comprising eight sub-samples (or rotation groups), with each sub-sample remaining in the survey for eight months, and one rotation group "rotating out" each month and being replaced by a new group "rotating in". This sample rotation is important in ensuring that seven-eighths of the sample are common from one month to the next, to ensure that changes in the estimates reflect real changes in the labour market, rather than the sample. In addition, the replacement sample is generally selected from the same geographic areas as the outgoing one, as part of a representative sampling approach.

When considering movements in the original estimates, it is possible to decompose the sample into three components:

- the matched common sample (survey respondents who responded in both January and February);
- the unmatched common sample (survey respondents who responded in February but who did not respond in January, or vice versa); and

- the incoming rotation group (survey respondents who replaced respondents who rotated out in January).

The detailed decomposition of each of these movements is included in the data cube 'Insights From the Original Data'.

In considering the three components of the sample, it is important to remember that the matched common sample describes the change observed for the same respondents in January and February, while the other two components reflect differences between the aggregate labour force status of different groups of people.

While the rotation groups are designed to be representative of the population, the outgoing and incoming rotation groups will almost always have somewhat different characteristics, as a result of the groups representing a sample of different households and people. The design of the survey, including the weighting and estimation processes, ensures that these differences are generally relatively minor and seeks to ensure that differences in characteristics of rotation groups do not affect the representativeness of the survey and its estimates. Monthly estimates are always designed to be representative of their respective months, regardless of the relative contribution of the three components of the sample.

MANAGING THE IMPACT OF THE TOWNSVILLE FLOODS ON LABOUR FORCE DATA

Flooding in Townsville in February 2019 resulted in a major disruption to the operation of the Labour Force Survey. As a result, there was a very low sample of responding households in the region in February.

Given the severity of these disruptions, which affected almost the entire region, and to ensure that this loss of sample did not affect data for Australia and Queensland, the ABS imputed sample for Townsville for February 2019. The imputation drew upon previous information that had recently been collected from people in Townsville.

The imputation will be re-assessed once March data has been collected from Townsville, at which point the ABS may revise the data for February. Consequently, regional level data for Townsville for February 2019 will not be published in *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery* (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) on the 28th March. The ABS expects to resume publishing these estimates for Townsville with the release of March data in April 2019.

The imputation may have resulted in a slight overestimation of hours worked in Queensland in February 2019, given hours worked in Townsville may have been lower than usual during the floods. The ABS does not currently have information on the extent of this impact.

Users of the matched sample analysis should also exercise some caution when looking at Queensland data between January and February, given the effect of the imputation for Townsville.

During 2018, the ABS estimated that employed persons in Townsville accounted for around 1 per cent of all employed persons in Australia, around 4 per cent of employed persons in Queensland, and around 9 per cent of employed persons in the regions in Queensland outside of Brisbane.

INCOMING ROTATION GROUP

In original terms, the incoming rotation group in February 2019 recorded an unchanged employment to population ratio compared to the group it replaced (62.8% in both January and February 2019), and was higher than the ratio for the entire sample (62.6%). The full-time employment to population ratio of the incoming rotation group was lower than the group it replaced (43.8% in January, down to 42.5% in February 2019), and was lower than the ratio for the entire sample (43.2%).

The unemployment rate of the incoming rotation group was 0.9 pts higher than the group it replaced (4.5% in January 2019, 5.4% in February 2019) and recorded the same unemployment rate as the whole sample (5.4%). The participation rate was 0.6 pts higher than the group it replaced (65.7% in January 2019, 66.4% in February 2019) and was higher than the sample as a whole (66.1%).

OUTGOING ROTATION GROUP

In looking ahead to the March 2019 estimates, in original terms, the outgoing rotation group in February 2019, which will be replaced by a new incoming rotation group in March 2019, has a higher employment to population ratio (62.9% in February 2019) compared to the sample as a whole (62.6%). The full-time employment to population ratio (43.9%) is higher than the ratio for the entire sample (43.2%).

The unemployment rate for the outgoing rotation group in February 2019 is lower than the whole sample (5.1%, compared to 5.4%). The participation rate for the outgoing rotation group in February 2019 is higher than the sample as a whole (66.3%, compared to 66.1%).

THE IMPORTANCE OF TREND DATA

As the gross flows and rotation group data are presented in original terms they are not directly comparable to the seasonally adjusted and trend data discussed elsewhere in the commentary, and are included to provide additional information for the original data. Since the original data are unadjusted, they have a considerable level of inherent sampling variability, which is specifically adjusted for in the trend series. The trend data provides the best measure of the underlying behaviour of the labour market and is the focus of the commentary in this publication.

ROTATION GROUP ANALYSIS FOR STATES AND TERRITORIES

In addition to analysis across the entire sample, the ABS also undertakes similar analysis for the responding sample in each state and territory each month, and highlights where there is a notable change for users to be aware of. For example, in the release of July 2018 data, on 16 August 2018, the ABS noted that “the rotation group effects in July 2018 were most pronounced in Queensland, Tasmania and the ACT.”

As for its reporting for the entire sample, where the ABS has not highlighted a notable incoming rotation group effect, any larger changes should therefore be considered to reflect a broader change across the sample.

This section provides an archive of articles and analysis published in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003), promoting the effective use of labour force statistics. Articles are sorted by publication month.

Articles on labour related topics are also available in Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0) and Australian Social Trends (cat. no. 4102.0).

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ARCHIVE

2019 January

How Many People Work One Hour Per Week? (cat. no. 6202.0)

2018

September

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0)

Underemployment in Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

June

Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design, July 2018 (cat. no. 6269.0)

April

Online Collection in the Labour Force Survey (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

March

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

Annual Seasonal Re-analysis (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

Improvements to Trend Estimation (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

February

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

Improvements to Trend Estimation (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

January

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

500th Issue of 6202.0 (cat. no. 6202.0)

2017

December

Advice on Reporting Regional Labour Force Data (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

November

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

October

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

Major Rebenchmarking of Labour Force Series (cat. no. 6202.0.55.003)

September

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)
Labour Force Explained

August

Labour Force Pivot Tables (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

July

Labour Force Pivot Tables (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

June

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0)
Labour Force Pivot Tables (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

April

Online Collection in the Labour Force Survey (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)
Labour Force Pivot Tables (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

March

Annual Seasonal Re-analysis (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

February

Changes to Filter Lengths used in Labour Statistics (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)
What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)
Changes to Filter Lengths used in Labour Statistics (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

2016

November

Spotlight on Underemployment (cat. no. 6202.0)
Labour Force Pivot Tables (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

September

Labour Force Pivot Tables (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

August

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)
Online Collection In The Labour Force Survey (cat. no. 6202.0)
Expanded Education data from the Labour Force Survey (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

July

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)
Revisions to Monthly hours worked in all jobs (cat. no. 6202.0)
Advice on Reporting Regional Labour Force Data (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

March

Annual Seasonal Re-analysis (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

February

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)
Online Collection In The Labour Force Survey (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

January

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

2015

December

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

November

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

Update on Recommendation 7 from the Independent Technical Review (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

Measures of Underemployment and Underutilisation (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

Measures of full-time, part-time job search (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

Measures of leave entitlements (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

Measures of current duration of employment (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

Volume measures of underutilisation (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

Measures of retrenchment (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

Measures of sector of main job (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

October

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

September

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

August

Online Collection in the Labour Force Survey (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

July

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

Progress with recommendations from the Independent Technical Review (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

Change to Status in Employment Output (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

June

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

Assessing Volatility in the Labour Force Series (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

Update on Recommendations 10 and 11 from the Independent Technical Review (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

May

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

Update on Recommendation 7 from the Independent Technical Review (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

April

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

March

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

Annual Seasonal Reanalysis (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)
Update on Recommendations from the Independent Technical Review (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

February

What's new in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)
Online Collection in the Labour Force Survey (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)
Rebenchmarking Labour Force Estimates (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

January

What's new in the Labour force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

2014

December

What's new in the Labour force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

November

What's new in the Labour force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)
Independent Technical Review into the Labour Force Survey and ABS Response (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

October

Removing the effect of Supplementary Surveys from seasonally adjusted estimates (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

September

Changes in this and upcoming labour force issues (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

August

Changes in this and upcoming labour force issues (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

July

What's new in the Labour force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

June

What's new in the Labour force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

May

What's new in the Labour force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

February

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)
Annual Seasonal Reanalysis (cat. no. 6202.0)
Analysis of changes to Labour Force Regional Estimates (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)
Rebenchmarking Labour Force Estimates to the 2011 Census of Population and Housing (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

January

Rebenchmarking Labour Force Estimates to the 2011 Census of Population and Housing (cat. no. 6202.0)

Analysis of changes to Labour Force Regional Estimates (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

2013

December

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics (cat. no. 6202.0)

November

What's new in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

September

What's new in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0)

Understanding full-time/part-time status in the Labour Force Survey (cat. no. 6202.0)

June

What's new in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0)

Fact Sheet Did You Know - Underemployment (cat. no. 6202.0)

May

What's new in Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0)

New Labour Force Sample Design (cat. no. 6202.0)

Annual Seasonal Reanalysis (cat. no. 6202.0)

April

What's New in Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0)

Transition to online collection of the Labour Force Survey (cat. no. 6202.0)

February

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0)

Estimating Jobs in the Australian Labour Market (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

Understanding Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

Employed Persons, Trend Estimates (cat. no. 6202.0)

Unemployed Persons, Trend Estimates (cat. no. 6202.0)

Aggregate Monthly Hours Worked, Trend Estimates (cat. no. 6202.0)

January

What's new in Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0)

Forthcoming improvements to the content of the Labour Force and Labour Supplementary Surveys (cat. no. 6202.0)

Understanding Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

2012

November

Rebenchmarking of Labour Force Series (cat. no. 6202.0)

Understanding Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

August

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)
Understanding Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)
Employed Persons, Trend Estimates (cat. no. 6202.0)
Unemployed Persons, Trend Estimates (cat. no. 6202.0)
Aggregate Monthly Hours Worked, Trend Estimates (cat. no. 6202.0)

July

Upcoming changes to the Labour Force Survey (cat. no. 6202.0)
Understanding Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

June

What's New in Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0)
Labour Household Surveys content review and the Labour Force Survey (cat. no. 6202.0)
Understanding Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

May

What's New in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)
Employment and mining in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)
Understanding Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

April

Population Benchmarks and Labour Force Survey (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)
ABS Response to recent concerns expressed about employment estimates (cat. no. 6202.0)
Understanding Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

March

Annual Seasonal Reanalysis (cat. no. 6202.0)
Understanding Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

February

Exploring Labour Force Data on joblessness (cat. no. 6202.0)
Understanding Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

January

Employment level estimates versus employment to population explained (cat. no. 6202.0)

2011

November

Understanding Labour Force (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)
Aggregate monthly hours worked, Trend estimates (cat. no. 6202.0)
Underemployment rate, Trend estimates (cat. no. 6202.0)
Labour force underutilisation rate, Trend estimates (cat. no. 6202.0)

February

Historical Revisions (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

January

Impact of the floods on the Labour Force Survey (cat. no. 6202.0, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

Employed Persons, Trend estimates (cat. no. 6202.0)

Unemployed Persons, Trend estimates (cat. no. 6202.0)

About this Release

A range of quarterly Excel spreadsheets and pivot tables.

The quarterly spreadsheets contain broad level data covering all the major items of the Labour Force Survey in time series format, including seasonally adjusted and trend estimates. The quarterly data cubes (pivot tables) contain more detailed and cross classified original data than the spreadsheets.

Explanatory Notes

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Time Series Spreadsheet (I-Note) - Time Series Spreadsheet

For a better level estimate of public sector employment, including by level of government, the ABS recommends referring to the annual Employment and Earnings, Public Sector, Australia (cat. no. 6248.0.55.002).

Time Series Spreadsheet (I-Note) - Time Series

Spreadsheet

For a better level estimate of public sector employment, including by level of government, the ABS recommends referring to the annual Employment and Earnings, Public Sector, Australia (cat. no. 6248.0.55.002).

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Standard Errors

Estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) are based on information collected from people in a sample of dwellings, rather than the entire population. Hence the estimates produced may differ from those that would have been produced if the entire population had been included in the survey. The most common measure of the likely difference (or 'sampling error') is the Standard Error (SE).

The ABS considers that estimates with a relative standard error of 25% or more may be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

To indicate those cells in spreadsheets with a relative standard error of 25% or more, annotations have been applied prior to dissemination.

In addition, the tables below have been supplied to show estimates at which the relative standard error is 25%. Estimates of the size indicated in the tables, or smaller, are considered to be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

Due to the January 2011 flooding in Queensland the relative standard errors for January 2011 will be higher than normal in some regions, therefore for Queensland the estimates at which the relative standard error is 25% will be higher than they appear in the tables below. However from February, the data returns to normal.

The new labour force sample was phased-in over four months from May to August 2013. During phase in of the new sample, standard errors associated with key labour force data

were expected to increase by approximately 10% at a national level, however increased standard errors and variability in the estimates may be more evident in detailed regional data during this time.

Additional information on how standard errors for LFS estimates are produced is available in Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

State	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Aust
Employed									
Feb-78 — Sep-82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	4.5
Oct-82 — Aug-87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep-87 — Feb-89	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Mar-89 — Aug-92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	2.0	1.4	3.5
Sep-92 — Aug-97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep-97 — Sep-98	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Oct-98 — Feb-03	5.9	3.1	3.7	2.5	2.2	1.1	1.3	0.9	5.5
Mar-03 — Oct-07	6.3	3.0	4.4	2.3	2.5	1.3	1.5	1.1	6.6
Nov-07	6.2	3.2	4.3	2.3	2.5	1.3	1.4	1.1	6.4
Dec-07	6.1	3.4	4.3	2.3	2.6	1.3	1.3	1.1	6.2
Jan-08	6.0	3.6	4.2	2.3	2.6	1.3	1.3	1.2	6.0
Feb-08	5.9	3.8	4.2	2.4	2.7	1.3	1.2	1.2	5.9
Mar-08	5.9	4.1	4.2	2.4	3.0	1.2	1.1	1.2	5.7
Apr-08	5.8	4.4	4.4	2.5	3.1	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.6
May-08	5.7	4.7	4.3	2.5	3.1	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.4
Jun-08	5.5	4.9	4.3	2.5	3.3	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.3
Jul-08 — Aug-09	6.9	6.1	5.3	3.1	4.0	1.5	1.2	1.6	7.4
Sep-09	6.5	5.8	5.0	2.9	3.8	1.5	1.1	1.5	7.0
Oct-09	6.1	5.5	4.7	2.8	3.6	1.4	1.0	1.4	6.5
Nov-09	5.8	5.2	4.5	2.6	3.4	1.3	1.0	1.4	6.2
Dec-09 — Jun-13	5.5	4.9	4.3	2.5	3.3	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.8
Jul-13 — Jan-14	7.7	3.8	5.5	2.7	3.8	1.4	0.3	1.7	7.8
Feb-14 onwards	7.9	3.9	5.6	2.7	3.8	1.4	0.3	1.7	7.9
Unemployed									
Feb-78 — Sep-82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	4.5
Oct-82 — Aug-87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep-87 — Feb-89	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Mar-89 — Aug-92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	2.0	1.4	3.5
Sep-92 — Aug-97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep-97 — Sep-98	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Oct-98 — Feb-03	5.7	5.7	4.5	2.6	3.3	1.3	3.2	1.4	4.9
Mar-03 — Oct-07	6.0	5.4	4.9	2.9	3.6	1.6	2.2	1.6	5.2
Nov-07	6.1	5.4	5.0	2.9	3.7	1.6	2.1	1.7	5.2
Dec-07	6.2	5.5	5.0	2.9	3.8	1.7	1.9	1.7	5.2
Jan-08	6.3	5.6	5.0	3.0	4.0	1.7	1.8	1.8	5.2
Feb-08	6.4	5.7	5.1	3.0	4.1	1.7	1.7	1.8	5.1
Mar-08	6.7	5.7	5.2	3.1	4.5	1.8	1.6	1.9	5.1
Apr-08	6.8	5.9	5.5	3.2	4.6	1.9	1.5	1.9	5.2
May-08	6.9	6.0	5.5	3.3	4.8	1.9	1.4	2.0	5.1
Jun-08	7.1	6.1	5.6	3.3	5.0	1.9	1.4	2.1	5.1
Jul-08 — Aug-09	9.3	8.0	7.4	4.4	6.6	2.5	1.8	2.8	7.3
Sep-09	8.7	7.5	6.8	4.1	6.1	2.4	1.6	2.5	6.8
Oct-09	8.1	7.0	6.4	3.8	5.7	2.2	1.5	2.4	6.4
Nov-09	7.5	6.5	6.0	3.5	5.3	2.1	1.5	2.2	6.0
Dec-09 — Jun-13	7.1	6.1	5.6	3.3	5.0	1.9	1.4	2.1	5.7
Jul-13 — Jan-14	7.3	6.6	8.4	3.7	5.8	1.7	1.3	2.2	7.1
Feb-14 onwards	7.4	6.7	8.6	3.8	5.9	1.8	1.3	2.3	7.3
NILF									
Feb-78 — Sep-82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	4.5
Oct-82 — Aug-87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep-87 — Feb-89	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Mar-89 — Aug-92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	2.0	1.4	3.5
Sep-92 — Aug-97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep-97 — Sep-98	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Oct-98 — Feb-03	6.4	3.7	4.1	3.2	2.7	1.2	1.4	1.1	6.0

Mar-03 — Oct-07	7.8	3.7	5.2	3.0	3.2	1.5	2.0	1.3	7.3
Nov-07	7.6	3.9	5.1	3.0	3.2	1.5	1.8	1.3	7.0
Dec-07	7.4	4.1	5.1	3.0	3.3	1.5	1.7	1.4	6.8
Jan-08	7.3	4.4	5.0	3.0	3.4	1.5	1.6	1.4	6.6
Feb-08	7.1	4.7	5.0	3.1	3.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	6.3
Mar-08	7.1	5.0	4.9	3.1	3.8	1.5	1.3	1.5	6.2
Apr-08	7.0	5.4	5.3	3.2	3.9	1.5	1.2	1.5	6.0
May-08	6.8	5.7	5.2	3.2	4.0	1.5	1.1	1.6	5.8
Jun-08	6.6	6.0	5.2	3.2	4.1	1.5	1.1	1.6	5.6
Jul-08 — Aug-09	8.3	7.6	6.5	4.0	5.2	1.8	1.4	2.0	8.0
Sep-09	7.8	7.2	6.1	3.7	4.9	1.7	1.3	1.9	7.4
Oct-09	7.3	6.7	5.8	3.5	4.6	1.6	1.2	1.8	6.9
Nov-09	6.9	6.4	5.4	3.3	4.4	1.6	1.2	1.7	6.5
Dec-09 — Jun-13	6.6	6.0	5.2	3.2	4.1	1.5	1.1	1.6	6.2
Jul-13 — Jan-14	8.4	4.4	9.8	3.6	4.5	1.8	0.7	2.5	9.0
Feb-14 onwards	8.5	4.5	9.9	3.7	4.6	1.8	0.8	2.5	9.1

Greater Capital City Statistical Areas	Feb-78 — Sep-82	Oct-82 — Aug-87	Sep-87 — Feb-89	Mar-89 — Aug-92	Sep-92 — Aug-97	Sep-97 — Sep-98	Oct-98 — Feb-03
Greater Sydney	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	5.3	5.7	5.8
Rest of NSW	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	5.3	5.7	5.8
Greater Melbourne	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	3.3
Rest of Victoria	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.3	3.2
Greater Brisbane	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.7	3.4
Rest of Queensland	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.6	4.3	3.6
Greater Adelaide	2.5	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.7
Rest of South Australia	2.5	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.5
Greater Perth	2.5	2.0	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.6	2.3
Rest of Western Australia	2.5	2.0	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.8	2.2
Greater Hobart	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.9
Rest of Tasmania	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1
	Mar-03 — Feb-08	Mar-08 — Jun-08	Jul-08 — Oct-09	Nov-09 — Jun-13	Jul-13 — Jan-14	Feb-14 onwards	
Greater Sydney	6.5	5.7	7.1	5.7	7.6	7.7	
Rest of NSW	6.4	5.6	7.0	5.6	7.5	7.6	
Greater Melbourne	3.2	5.1	6.4	5.1	4.0	4.0	
Rest of Victoria	3.1	5.0	6.3	5.0	3.9	3.9	
Greater Brisbane	4.1	4.0	5.0	4.0	5.9	6.0	
Rest of Queensland	4.4	4.3	5.4	4.3	6.3	6.4	
Greater Adelaide	2.5	2.7	3.4	2.7	3.0	3.0	
Rest of South Australia	2.4	2.5	3.1	2.5	2.8	2.8	
Greater Perth	2.6	3.5	4.3	3.5	3.9	4.0	
Rest of Western Australia	2.5	3.3	4.1	3.3	3.7	3.8	
Greater Hobart	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.3	
Rest of Tasmania	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.5	
Statistical Area Level 4 Regions	Oct-98 — Feb-03	Mar-03 — Feb-08	Mar-08 — Jun-08	Jul-08 — Oct-09	Nov-09 — Jun-13	Jul-13 — Jan-14	Feb-14 onwards
Central Coast	7.4	8.5	7.2	9.4	7.2	10.2	10.4
Sydney - Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury	7.2	8.3	7.0	9.2	7.0	10.0	10.2
Sydney - Blacktown	7.3	8.3	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.0	10.2
Sydney - City and Inner South	8.5	9.7	8.3	10.8	8.3	11.7	11.9
Sydney - Eastern Suburbs	9.6	11.0	9.3	12.2	9.3	13.1	13.4
Sydney - Inner South West	7.3	8.4	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.1	10.3
Sydney - Inner West	7.7	8.8	7.5	9.8	7.5	10.6	10.8
Sydney - North Sydney and Hornsby	7.6	8.6	7.3	9.6	7.3	10.4	10.6
Sydney - Northern Beaches	7.8	8.9	7.6	9.9	7.6	10.7	10.9
Sydney - Outer South West	7.3	8.4	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.1	10.3
Sydney - Outer West and Blue Mountains	7.3	8.3	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.0	10.2
Sydney - Parramatta	7.8	8.9	7.6	10.0	7.6	10.8	11.0
Sydney - Ryde	7.7	8.8	7.5	9.8	7.5	10.6	10.8
Sydney - South West	7.5	8.6	7.3	9.6	7.3	10.4	10.6

Sydney - Sutherland	7.4	8.4	7.2	9.4	7.2	10.1	10.3
Capital Region	7.2	8.2	7.0	9.2	7.0	9.9	10.1
Central West	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Coffs Harbour - Grafton	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Far West and Orana	7.4	8.4	7.2	9.4	7.2	10.1	10.3
Hunter Valley exc Newcastle	7.1	8.1	6.9	9.0	6.9	9.8	10.0
Illawarra	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Mid North Coast	7.5	8.6	7.3	9.6	7.3	10.3	10.6
Murray	7.6	8.6	7.4	9.6	7.4	10.4	10.6
New England and North West	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Newcastle and Lake Macquarie	7.1	8.1	6.9	9.0	6.9	9.8	9.9
Richmond - Tweed	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Riverina	7.6	8.6	7.4	9.6	7.4	10.4	10.6
Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven	9.0	10.3	8.7	11.4	8.7	12.3	12.6
Melbourne - Inner	4.1	3.9	7.2	9.4	7.2	5.2	5.3
Melbourne - Inner East	3.6	3.4	6.2	8.2	6.2	4.5	4.6
Melbourne - Inner South	3.7	3.5	6.4	8.4	6.4	4.7	4.8
Melbourne - North East	3.8	3.6	6.6	8.6	6.6	4.8	4.9
Melbourne - North West	3.7	3.6	6.5	8.6	6.5	4.7	4.8
Melbourne - Outer East	3.8	3.6	6.6	8.7	6.6	4.8	4.9
Melbourne - South East	3.6	3.4	6.3	8.3	6.3	4.6	4.7
Melbourne - West	3.5	3.4	6.1	8.1	6.1	4.4	4.5
Mornington Peninsula	3.6	3.5	6.4	8.3	6.4	4.6	4.7
Ballarat	4.0	3.8	6.9	9.1	6.9	5.0	5.1
Bendigo	3.8	3.7	6.7	8.8	6.7	4.9	5.0
Geelong	3.7	3.5	6.5	8.5	6.5	4.7	4.8
Hume	4.3	4.1	7.4	9.7	7.4	5.4	5.5
Latrobe - Gippsland	4.1	3.9	7.2	9.4	7.2	5.2	5.3
North West	3.9	3.7	6.8	8.9	6.8	4.9	5.0
Shepparton	4.3	4.1	7.4	9.7	7.4	5.4	5.5
Warrnambool and South West	3.7	3.5	6.5	8.5	6.5	4.7	4.8
Brisbane - East	4.1	5.1	5.1	6.7	5.1	8.1	8.2
Brisbane - North	4.1	5.2	5.1	6.7	5.1	8.1	8.3
Brisbane - South	4.2	5.2	5.2	6.8	5.2	8.2	8.4
Brisbane - West	4.1	5.2	5.1	6.7	5.1	8.2	8.3
Brisbane Inner City	4.2	5.3	5.3	6.9	5.3	8.4	8.6
Ipswich	4.0	5.0	5.0	6.5	5.0	7.9	8.1
Logan - Beaudesert	4.3	5.4	5.3	7.0	5.3	8.4	8.6
Moreton Bay - North	3.9	4.9	4.8	6.4	4.8	7.7	7.9
Moreton Bay - South	3.9	4.9	4.8	6.3	4.8	7.7	7.9
Cairns	4.9	6.2	6.1	8.0	6.1	9.7	9.9
Darling Downs - Maranoa	4.6	5.8	5.7	7.5	5.7	9.1	9.3
Fitzroy	4.2	5.3	5.2	6.9	5.2	8.3	8.5
Gold Coast	4.3	5.5	5.4	7.1	5.4	8.6	8.7
Mackay	4.2	5.3	5.2	6.9	5.2	8.3	8.5
Queensland - Outback	4.7	5.9	5.8	7.6	5.8	9.2	9.4
Sunshine Coast	4.3	5.4	5.3	7.0	5.3	8.5	8.7
Toowoomba	4.6	5.8	5.7	7.5	5.7	9.0	9.2
Townsville	4.7	5.9	5.8	7.6	5.8	9.2	9.4
Wide Bay	4.6	5.8	5.7	7.5	5.7	9.0	9.2
Adelaide - Central and Hills	3.3	3.1	3.3	4.3	3.3	3.7	3.8
Adelaide - North	3.3	3.0	3.3	4.3	3.3	3.7	3.8
Adelaide - South	3.4	3.1	3.4	4.4	3.4	3.8	3.9
Adelaide - West	3.7	3.4	3.7	4.8	3.7	4.1	4.2
Barossa - Yorke - Mid North	3.5	3.2	3.5	4.5	3.5	3.9	4.0
South Australia - Outback	3.7	3.4	3.7	4.8	3.7	4.1	4.2
South Australia - South East	3.1	2.8	3.1	4.0	3.1	3.5	3.5
Mandurah	2.4	2.8	4.0	5.2	4.0	4.6	4.7
Perth - Inner	3.1	3.5	4.9	6.5	4.9	5.8	5.9
Perth - North East	2.9	3.3	4.6	6.1	4.6	5.4	5.5
Perth - North West	2.8	3.2	4.5	5.9	4.5	5.2	5.3
Perth - South East	2.9	3.3	4.7	6.1	4.7	5.5	5.6
Perth - South West	2.7	3.1	4.3	5.7	4.3	5.0	5.1
Bunbury	2.4	2.8	4.0	5.2	4.0	4.6	4.7

Western Australia - Outback	2.8	3.3	4.6	6.0	4.6	5.4	5.5
Western Australia - Wheat Belt	2.6	3.0	4.2	5.5	4.2	4.9	5.0
Greater Hobart	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.3
Launceston and North East	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.9	1.5	1.7	1.8
Tasmania - South East	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.4	1.9	2.2	2.2
Tasmania - West and North West	1.3	1.6	1.6	2.0	1.6	1.8	1.8
Darwin	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.9
Northern Territory - Outback	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.9

Quality Declaration - Summary

QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Labour Force statistics are compiled from the Labour Force Survey which is conducted each month throughout Australia as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) household survey program. For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

RELEVANCE

The Labour Force Survey provides monthly information about the labour market activity of Australia's resident civilian population aged 15 years and over. The Labour Force Survey is designed to primarily provide estimates of employment and unemployment for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

TIMELINESS

The Labour Force Survey enumeration begins on the Sunday between the 5th and 11th of the month, except for the Christmas and New Year holiday period. In December enumeration starts between the 3rd and 9th (4 weeks after November enumeration begins). In January enumeration starts between the 7th and 13th (5 weeks after December enumeration begins).

Key estimates from the Labour Force Survey are published in two stages. The first, Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), is released 39 days after the commencement of enumeration for the month, with the exception of estimates for December which are published 46 days after the commencement of enumeration.

The second stage includes detailed data that were not part of the first stage and are published in Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003). The second stage is released 7 days after the first stage.

ACCURACY

The Labour Force Survey is based on a sample of private dwellings (approximately 26,000 houses, flats etc) and non-private dwellings, such as hotels and motels. The sample covers about 0.32% of the Australian civilian population aged 15 years or over. The Labour Force Survey is designed primarily to provide estimates of key labour force statistics for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: non-sampling error and sampling error.

Non-sampling error arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures. Non-sampling error also arises because information cannot be obtained from all persons selected in the survey. The Australian Labour Force Survey receives a higher level of co-operation from individuals in selected dwellings compared to other countries, with the average response rate over the past 3 years being 92.5 per cent, and the average rate over the past year being 92.0 per cent (to the nearest quarter of a per cent, in rounded terms). See Glossary for definition of response rate.

Sampling error occurs because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all dwellings in the survey is given by the standard error. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

Standard errors of key estimates and movements since the previous month are available in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0). The standard error of other estimates and movements may be calculated by using the spreadsheet contained in Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

COHERENCE

The ABS has been conducting the Labour Force Survey each month since February 1978. While seeking to provide a high degree of consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey, sound survey practice requires careful and continuing maintenance and development to maintain the integrity of the data and the efficiency of the collection.

The changes which have been made to the Labour Force Survey have included changes in sampling methods, estimation methods, concepts, data item definitions, classifications, and time series analysis techniques. In introducing these changes the ABS has generally revised previous estimates to ensure consistency and coherence with current estimates. For a full list of changes made to the Labour Force Survey see Chapter 20 in Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

INTERPRETABILITY

The key estimates from the Labour Force Survey are available as original, seasonally adjusted and trend series. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove the irregular influences

which may be present and therefore month-to-month movements may not be reliable indicators of underlying behaviour. To assist in interpreting the underlying behaviour, the ABS produces the trend series by smoothing the seasonally adjusted series to reduce the impact of the irregular component. For further information, see *A Guide to Interpreting Time Series - Monitoring Trends* (cat. no. 1349.0).

Further information on the terminology and other technical aspects associated with statistics from the Labour Force Survey can be found in the publication *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0), which contains detailed Explanatory Notes, Standard Error information and a Glossary.

ACCESSIBILITY

Please see the Related Information tab for the list of products that are available from this collection.

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